

Porter Open House meeting summary
Wednesday, February 10, 2010 4:00-6:30PM

Staff hosted an Open House to discuss design alternatives developed by Ochsner Hare & Hare for a revitalized Porter Corridor streetscape. Sixty people signed in during the come-and-go meeting—20 of them property owners in the Porter Corridor project area (according to addresses given on sign-in sheets). In two short presentations at 4:20 and 5:30, Planning Director Susan Connors discussed project progress and next steps and Project Manager Susan Atkinson walked guests through the design alternatives depicted along a generic block of Porter Avenue. Atkinson briefly discussed design tradeoffs with 12 foot vs. 14 foot travel lanes along Porter. Guests asked questions about accommodations for bicycles, tradeoffs between a 3½ foot and a 5½ foot landscape buffer, maintenance issues with various landscape materials, and driving lane configurations. Several people asked about bike lanes on Porter but understood that there is not the required 6 feet available to create a dedicated bike lane. Staff and guests mingled afterward, discussing various aspects of the project. In general, people who expressed a preference for materials and design wanted a streetscape thematically linked to Main Street. They preferred middle ground amenities that will create an attractive streetscape with reasonable costs of installation and maintenance. Several property owners saw the benefit to their property in having streetscape improvements and were potentially willing to participate in the maintenance. There was fairly unanimous agreement that installation of the streetscape improvements were the City's responsibility. Several people stated a clear preference that Porter Corridor be made as "bike friendly" as possible, even if on-street bike lanes are not possible.